l: Allen H-4 (no date) 1932 RI1 Georgia RI1

and a castle for the bay charger of the Prince of Khachen—"a famous animal"[1]—was recognized as the equal of learned men.[2] And in those days it was not unfitting that a man might mingle with his love of dogs and falcons, some familiarity with the Greek philosophers and the Persian poets. To find a parallel to the enlightened catholicity of the mediæval Georgian aristocracy, we have to turn to the petty Christian courts of the Iberian Peninsula and to that fair flower of twelfth-century culture, the court of the Sicilian Angevins at Palermo. In Georgia, Spain and Sicily—on the marches of Christendom and Islam—we find that rich mingling of the two cultures, that coming together of varied types of man and mind along a common borderland. And as in Spain were produced the easy-thinking Mozarabs—men who took a turn of fortune with facility and were not unfavoured by changing masters—so in Georgia we find the same phenomenon. Between the bloody wars of Christian against Muslim were intervals when the master gave easy toleration to vassals of another faith, and even Muslim and Christian could combine against Christian and Muslim. The Georgian kings were frequently in alliance with the Shirvanshah and other Mussulman princes of the Caucasus, and in spite of the savage warfare, the Mussulman population of Tiflis and other Georgian towns, which was always numerous, was generally treated with consideration. The Arab historian al-Aini, in a remarkable passage, recites the benefits which David Aghmashenebeli accorded to the Muslims of Tiflis after his capture of the city in 1121, and he adds that the King showed a greater consideration for the Muslims than had the Mussulman princes themselves.[3] According to al-Aini, David undertook to strike coins bearing the Arabic superscription on one side, and certainly the coins of his successor Dmitri bear Georgian inscriptions with the Arabic on the reverse.[4]

To the wealth of the Georgian Kingdom, the ruins of churches, monasteries and castles and the debris of the movable riches, which has been deposited and remains to this day in the parish churches of Svaneti, all bear witness. The tradition of an antique accumulation, of long familiarity with luxury, runs through the Georgian Annals. The contemporary

[1] Brosset, *H. de la G.*, I, 441. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 423.

[3] Brosset, *Add. et Eclair.*, pp. 240–1, quoting al-Aini. At the same time, according to the Georgian Annals, a Mussulman invasion of the previous year had been occasioned by an appeal of the merchants of Ganja, Tiflis and Dmanisi to the Seljuk Sultan Mahmud-ibn-Muhammad (cf. Brosset, *H. de la G.*, I, 368).

[4] Pakhomov, I, 83.

[Constitution as of July 1, 1947]

652 646 Art. 113. The Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR elects a Budget Commission which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Georgian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 114. Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR the state budget of the Georgian SSR is published for general information.

Art. 115. The report on the fulfillment of the state budget of the Georgian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR and published for general information.

652 631 Art. 116. The budget of the Abkhazian and Adjar Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region and the local budgets of district, city, settlement and village Soviets of Working People's Deputies include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Georgian SSR.

Chapter X. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 117. In the Georgian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR, the Supreme Courts of the Abkhazian and Adjar Autonomous Republics, the Court of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the People's Courts.

[643] Art. 118. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 119. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Georgian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Georgian SSR, the Abkhazian and Adjar Autonomous Republics and the South Ossetian Autonomous Region.

[646] Art. 120. The Supreme Court of the Georgian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 121. The Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics are elected by the Supreme Soviets of the Autonomous Republics for a term of five years.

Art. 122. The Court of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region is elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the South Ossetian Autonomous Region for a term of five years.

Art. 123. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the district on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 563 Art. 124. Judicial proceedings in the Georgian SSR are conducted in the Georgian language, or in the languages of the Autonomous Republics or of the Autonomous Region, persons not knowing

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

695 these languages being guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting
[573] themselves with the material in the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 125. In all Courts of the Georgian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

693 Art. 126. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 127. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Georgian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Georgian SSR.

Art. 128. The Procurators of the Georgian SSR, of the Autonomous Republics and of the Autonomous Region are appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 129. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Georgian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 130. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter XI. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

641 Art. 131. Citizens of the Georgian SSR have the right to work,
441 that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

[446] Art. 132. Citizens of the Georgian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for factory and office workers, the reduction of the working day to seven or six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in shops where conditions of work are particularly arduous, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of the working people.

657 Art. 133. Citizens of the Georgian SSR have the right to
641 maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense,

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[641] [65] free medical service for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

[871] Art. 134. Citizens of the Georgian SSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including the seventh grade; by a system of state stipends for students of higher educational establishments who excel in their studies; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms, machine and tractor stations and collective farms of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

[562] Art. 135. Women in the Georgian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance, and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[563] Art. 136. Equality of rights of citizens of the Georgian SSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other activity is an inalienable law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

[659] Art. 137. In order to ensure the citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the Georgian SSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens.

Art. 138. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed by law:

a) freedom of speech;
b) freedom of press;
c) freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
d) freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

[Constitution as of July, 1947]

Chapter XIII. Language, Arms, Flag and Capital

191 [523] Art. 156. The state language of the Georgian SSR is Georgian. National minorities living in the territory of the Georgian SSR are guaranteed the right of free development and use of their native language both in their cultural and political institutions.

Art. 157. Laws, as well as decrees and explanatory texts of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR, decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR are published in the Georgian language, and in the Autonomous Republics and the Autonomous Region - in the Georgian language and the language of the Autonomous Republic or the Autonomous Region.

Art. 158. Laws, and likewise decrees and explanatory texts of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviets of Autonomous Republics, decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republics and decisions and orders of the Executive Committee of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region are published in the language of the Autonomous Republic or the Autonomous Region and in the Georgian language.

186 Art. 159. The arms of the Georgian SSR are a round red field in the upper part of which is a five-pointed star with rays reaching out into the whole field, and in the lower part a snowy mountain range of blue colour, with gold ears of grain on the right and gold vines with grapes on the left. The gold ears and vines are intertwined at the base of the mountains in the lower part of the field. A large part of the center is occupied by a sickle and hammer of gold which reaches at the top into the shining star, at the bottom - into the peaks of the mountain ranges, and on the sides - into the ears and vines. The field is surrounded by an inscription in the Russian and Georgian languages "Workers of All Countries, United!" The arms are surrounded by a pattern of ornament in the Georgian style.

Art. 160. The flag of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is of red cloth with the inscription in gold letters in the Georgian language "Georgian SSR" in the upper left corner, within a square the sides of which are equal to one quarter of the entire width of the flag.

Art. 161. The capital of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic is the City of Tbilisi.

Chapter XIV. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

642 Art. 162. The Constitution of the Georgian SSR may be amended only by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

000 Note: This translation was made from a Russian text published by the Publishing House "Zarya Vostoka" in Tbilisi in 1947, and apparently approved by the Secretary of the Presidium on June 22, 1948.

6: Grigolia E-4, 5 (no date) 1939 RI1 Georgia RI1
Chevsur

ning of this chapter, religion with the Georgian Highlanders held a sustaining and regulating place in the life of the community. The various and numerous religious rules were observed and executed without any hesitation.

In the celebration of holidays in the leading sanctuaries, not only the natives but their neighbors (even the Mohammedans) take part. Thus, at the festival of the *Lashris-jvari*, at the end of July, known as *lashroba*, or *Lashris-jvaroba*, there are present, besides the Pshavs, Tushes, Khevsurs, Mahommedan Kists, Georgians from Kartli and Kakleti, and others. This fact was observed by the French investigator, Baron de Baye,[41] during the religious celebrations in the monastery of Alaverdi in Kakhetia. The religious festivals in the cathedral of Alaverdi are described in detail by A. L. Zisserman.[42]

The Khevsurs come to these festivals wearing their best clothes and arms, and bring animals for sacrifice. Visitors who have given a special vow to the *Khati* are bare-footed and wear over their garments long white shirts which they take off at the entrance to the enclosure of the sanctuary and throw into a pit especially dug for this purpose. A great number of animals is sacrificed to the *Khati*—hundreds of sheep, goats and oxen are killed. Baron de Baye relates that 750 sheep and two oxen were sacrificed at the celebration in the monastery of Alaverdi in Kakhatia, and that the celebration in the Khevsur sanctuary, *Khakhmatis-jvari*, required the sacrifice of from 500 to 600 sheep and twenty to forty oxen. The blood of the animals is caught in a special wooden vessel. The *dekanozi* who butchers the animals washes his hands in the blood and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the offerer. The pelt and fore part of the animal belong to the *dekanozi* and the hind part to the offerer, who forwards it to the attendants of the *Khati* to use as supply for the general feast which follows the religious ceremonies.

Besides saying prayers and killing the sacrificial animals during religious holidays, the *dekanozis*[1] also hear complaints of various kinds and settle disputes, according to established custom.

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[41] Baye: a, 253.
[42] Zisserman: 23-4.

1 Dekanozis, shrine attendants; see cap. III, p. 21 ff., esp. p. 29.—Analyst.

For this and similar lyrical expressions of irredentism Abashidze was awarded a Stalin Prize for 1950. The same honour was bestowed on the Georgian playwright, Ilo Mosashvili, for the play *Sunken Stones*, which deals with the national aspirations of the Georgian inhabitants of an imaginary Turkish town not far from the borders of the U.S.S.R. The title of the play refers to the ruins of an ancient Georgian church, a national shrine of the local Georgians, which the Turkish authorities dismantle by night, throwing the débris into the sea. The play was shown in all the leading theatres of Georgia.

S.U. 563 648 Ge. [628] 786

In the past the Soviet Government cared as little for Georgian as for Armenian national aspirations. In 1921 it had ceded to Turkey some of the territories which the Georgians have demanded since 1945. During the inter-war period any mention of the Georgian claims against Turkey would have been tantamount to high treason, since it would have disturbed Soviet-Turkish relations. Nevertheless, the Soviet régime showed an ambiguous attitude towards Turkey even in the period of the Bolshevik-Kemalist honeymoon. Almost from its inception the Georgian Soviet Republic included a small special territorial unit which, in itself, constituted a challenge to the Turks. This territorial unit is called Adzharistan or Adzhar A.S.S.R. It is situated in Georgia's south-western corner and covers but a tiny territory of 970 square miles. Adzharistan which consists of the port of Batum and its surroundings, was incorporated into Russia in 1878 after Turkey had held it since 1625. From a Georgian national point of view this conquest was of great significance, since it was the first of those vast formerly Georgian Black Sea territories which Russia succeeded in wresting from the Turks.

S.U. 563 648 Ge. [634] 563 786 S.U. 648 563

Though the population of these ancient Georgian territories, which reached as far as Trebizond, was forced to accept the Moslem religion, many continued to speak a Georgian dialect. Georgian nationalists, who called the lost Georgian lands 'Moslem Georgia', or 'Turkish Georgia', and their inhabitants 'Moslem Georgians', or Lazi, claimed that Russia, in her treaty with Irakli II, had pledged herself to strive for the reunion of Georgia with the lands which had belonged to her of old. The treaty did indeed contain a clause which might have been interpreted in such a way. Imperial Russia was in no way inclined to satisfy Georgian national demands. She was interested in Batum because it was an excellent sea-port and, later on, the terminus of the oil-pipeline running from Baku to the Black Sea, and not because Georgian nationalists cherished the idea of Batum's annexation.

The idea of annexing more Turkish Black Sea coastal territories by using Batum as a springboard for further conquests was not alien to Czarist policy. But this was *par excellence* a Russian imperialistic idea which totally disregarded any specific Georgian national interests. The development of Batum from a wretched little place with 1,500 inhabitants

21: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1952 R1 Soviet Union R1
Georgia R12

[Abkhaz]

and one stone building – the house of the Russian consul – in the year of annexation, to a port of international importance ten or fifteen years later certainly helped to raise Russia's prestige in north-eastern Turkey. The Russian scholar, N. Y. Marr, who in 1910 travelled in Lazistan, 'Turkish Georgia', noted that Russia enjoyed a fairly good reputation among the Lazi; at the same time he was unable to trace any pan-Georgian feelings among the latter. He found that the Lazi were actually dying out.[29] Notwithstanding the evidence supplied by Marr, Georgian nationalists continued to talk of 'Turkish Georgia', which included, they said, as many as 600,000 Georgians. During the First World War these nationalists formulated, indeed, territorial demands for large stretches of land along the Black Sea coast, including areas to the east of Trebizond.[30]

Soviet estimates about the number of 'Turkish Georgians' were for a long time rather cautious. A textbook published in 1949 said that there were 'not less than 200,000' of them, but three years later the Soviet Encyclopædia asserted that there were 'over 500,000'.[31]

ABKHAZIA

In the early years of the Georgian Soviet Republic Stalin tried to enlist the small national minorities of Georgia in the fight against the communist leadership in Tiflis. Stalin then complained of the 'harmful and dangerous chauvinism' of the Georgian communists who thought 'there was no need to reckon with less cultured and less developed nationalities'.[32] The minorities whom Stalin had in mind were the Georgian Moslems (also called Adzharians), the Ossetins and in particular the Abkhazians.

In the middle of the nineteenth century the Abkhazians found themselves in a difficult situation. They had been exposed to colonization from two sides and had become part of both the Great Russian and the Georgian living space. In these circumstances thousands of Abkhazians thought it preferable to leave their homeland for Turkey rather than to wage a hopeless struggle against the dual Russian-Georgian pressure. Although the Georgian nationalists and 'National Bolsheviks' disliked the idea of an Abkhazian autonomy, an 'Abkhazian A.S.S.R.' was nevertheless established within the Georgian S.S.R. on the insistence of the Moscow Government. In 1926 Autonomous Abkhazia covered 3,240 square miles and had a population of 174,000 of whom the Abkhazians accounted for less than one-third.

The Abkhazians, though useful as long as they could be played up against the Georgians, lost favour with the central Government as soon as their national interests clashed with those of the Soviet Union as a whole. This happened when, under the Second Five-Year Plan, Ab-

21: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1952 R1 Soviet Union R1
[Abkhaz] Georgia RI 1
AZERBAIDZHAN Azerbaijan RK 1
[Baku]

khazia was ordered to increase considerably its tobacco production. Since the population of Abkhazia as it was at that time, and the small Abkhazian people in particular, could not possibly have coped with the targets assigned to them by the Five-Year Plan, more Russians, Georgians, Armenians and Greeks had to be brought into the republic.

It mattered little to the Abkhazians whether the new influx of foreign elements into their country was effected in the name of socialist planning and 'specialization', or in that of nationalist expansion. Fearing for the future of their people, Abkhazian communists demanded that the Abkhazians who had emigrated to Turkey under the Czarist régime should be brought back and take the place of the non-Abkhazian colonists. It is no wonder then that, in consequence, Soviet publications started complaining about Abkhazian resistance.[33]

In the end the Abkhazians fell completely into disgrace with the Kremlin. Paradoxically enough, the leaders of the people whom Stalin had shielded against encroachments by Georgian nationalists became involved in an alleged plot aiming at assassinating their 'protector'. The Abkhazian Bolshevik leader, Nestor Lakoba, was fortunate enough to die a natural death in 1936, for in the following year he might have been the central figure in a plot trial held in the Abkhazian capital, Sukhum. Most of the forty-seven defendants charged with having attempted to murder Stalin were Lakoba's friends, relatives and collaborators. Ten of them were executed.

The 'liquidation' of 'the Abkhazian nationalists in Bolshevik disguise' cleared the way for further Georgian colonization in Abkhazia. After the Second World War a special Resettlement Board of the Tiflis Government gave grants to Georgian collective farmers settling down along the Black Sea shore in the Abkhazian coastal districts of Gagry, Gudauti and Ochemchiri.[34]

III. AZERBAIDZHAN

BAKU – THE OIL CITY

Whilst Georgia fell into the hands of the Russians like a ripe fruit, the establishment of Russian rule over Azerbaidzhan was a very protracted affair. The conquest of Azerbaidzhan was in fact one of the most difficult and costly enterprises in the entire subjugation of Transcaucasia. The first Russian conqueror of Azerbaidzhan's future capital, Baku, was the leader of lawless Cossack bands from the Don, Ataman Stenka Razin, one of the greatest rebels against the authority of the Czar. The second conqueror of Baku was Russia's greatest Czar, Peter I.

The fact that Peter's general, Matyushkin, brought Baku, in 1723, for twelve years under Russian rule, is, perhaps, less important than the